

Appl. No. 09/806,047
Amdmt. Dated June 14, 2004
Reply to Office Action of March 16, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An elastic laminate elastically extensible in at least one direction, comprising:
 - (a) an elastomeric layer having a first surface and a second surface opposing the first surface; wherein the elastomeric layer is in a form selected from the group consisting of a scrim, an apertures formed film, an elastomeric woven or nonwoven, discrete strands and strings; wherein the elastomeric woven or nonwoven and discrete strand and strings comprise a polystyrene thermoplastic elastomer selected from the group consisting of a styrene-butadiene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/propylene thermoplastic elastomer, a hydrogenated styrene butadiene rubber, and a mixture thereof; and
 - (b) a first nonwoven layer joined to the first surface of the elastomeric layer, the first nonwoven layer being formed from component fibers having a primary fiber direction; wherein the first nonwoven layer has a Fiber Orientation Ratio within about ± 20 degrees from a primary fiber direction of at least about 65%;
wherein the elastic laminate exhibits elasticity without mechanical stretching.
2. (Original) The elastic laminate according to Claim 1, wherein the first nonwoven layer has a Tensile Strength Ratio of at least about 15.
3. (Original) The elastic laminate of Claim 1, wherein the first nonwoven layer has a stress of less than about 200 gf/inch (about 80 gf/cm) at 30% elongation.
4. (Original) The elastic laminate of Claim 1, wherein the first nonwoven layer has a Fiber Orientation Ratio within about ± 10 degrees from the primary fiber direction of at least about 45%.
5. (Original) The elastic laminate of Claim 1, wherein the first nonwoven layer has a basis weight of less than about 60 g/m².
6. (Original) The elastic laminate of Claim 1, further comprising a second nonwoven layer joined to the second surface of the elastomeric material.

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7. (Original) The elastic laminate of Claim 1, wherein the first nonwoven layer is made from synthetic continuous fibers.
8. (Original) The elastic laminate of Claim 7, wherein the synthetic continuous fibers are made from a polyolefin or a polyester.
9. (Original) The elastic laminate of Claim 7, wherein the synthetic continuous fibers are bicomponent fibers.
10. (Currently Amended) A disposable garment having a front region, a back region and a crotch region between the front region and the back region, comprising: a chassis provided in the front, back and crotch regions and having edge lines in the front and back regions, the chassis comprising a liquid pervious topsheet, a liquid impervious backsheet associated with the topsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet; and at least one pair of extensible side panels extending laterally outward from the chassis in the front or back region, wherein at least one of the side panels including an elastic laminate elastically extensible at least in the lateral direction, the elastic laminate including:
 - (a) an elastomeric layer having a first surface and a second surface opposing the first surface; wherein the elastomeric layer is in a form selected from the group consisting of a scrim, an apertures formed film, an elastomeric woven or nonwoven, discrete strands and strings; wherein the elastomeric woven or nonwoven and discrete strand and strings comprise a polystyrene thermoplastic elastomer selected from the group consisting of a styrene-butadiene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/propylene thermoplastic elastomer, a hydrogenated styrene butadiene rubber, and a mixture thereof; and
 - (b) a first nonwoven layer joined to the first surface of the elastomeric layer, the first nonwoven layer being formed from component fibers having a primary fiber direction; wherein the first nonwoven layer has a Fiber Orientation Ratio within about ± 20 degrees from a primary fiber direction of at least about 65%;
wherein the elastic laminate exhibits elasticity without mechanical stretching.
11. (Currently Amended) A disposable garment having a longitudinal center line, longitudinal edges, end edges, a front region, a back region and a crotch region between the front region and the back region, comprising: a chassis provided in the front, back and crotch regions and having edge lines in the front and back regions, the chassis comprising a liquid pervious topsheet, a

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liquid impervious backsheet associated with the topsheet, and an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet; and a waistband disposed along at least one of the end edges of the disposable garment, wherein the waistband includes an elastic laminate including

- (a) an elastomeric layer having a first surface and a second surface opposing the first surface; wherein the elastomeric layer is in a form selected from the group consisting of a scrim, an apertures formed film, an elastomeric woven or nonwoven, discrete strands and strings; wherein the elastomeric woven or nonwoven and discrete strand and strings comprise a polystyrene thermoplastic elastomer selected from the group consisting of a styrene-butadiene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/propylene thermoplastic elastomer, a hydrogenated styrene butadiene rubber, and a mixture thereof; and
- (b) a first nonwoven layer joined to the first surface of the elastomeric layer, the first nonwoven layer being formed from component fibers having a primary fiber direction; wherein the first nonwoven layer has a Fiber Orientation Ratio within about ± 20 degrees from a primary fiber direction of at least about 65%;

wherein the elastic laminate exhibits elasticity without mechanical stretching.

12. (Previously Presented) The disposable garment of Claim 10, further comprising seams which join the chassis to the side panels to form two leg openings and a waist opening.
13. (Previously Presented) The disposable garment of Claim 10, wherein the at least one pair of the side panels comprises one pair of extensible front side panels extending laterally outward from the chassis in the front region, and one pair of extensible back side panels extending laterally outward from the chassis in the back region, and the disposable garment further comprises seams each joining the front and back side panels to form the two leg openings and the waist opening.
14. (Previously Presented) The disposable garment of Claim 10, wherein the first nonwoven layer has a Tensile Strength Ratio of at least about 15.
15. (Previously Presented) The disposable garment of Claim 10, wherein the first nonwoven layer has a stress of less than about 200 gf/inch (about 80 gf/cm) at 30% elongation.

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16. (Previously Presented) The disposable garment of Claim 10, wherein the first nonwoven layer has a Fiber Orientation Ratio within about ± 10 degrees from the primary fiber direction of at least about 45%.
17. (Previously Presented) The disposable garment of Claim 10, further comprising a second nonwoven layer joined to the second surface of the elastomeric material.
18. (Previously Presented) The disposable garment of Claim 10, wherein the elastomeric material is in the form of a continuous plane layer or a strand.
19. (Previously Presented) The disposable garment of Claim 10, wherein the first nonwoven layer is formed from synthetic continuous fibers which are made from a polyolefin or a polyester.
20. (New) A method for making an elastic laminate comprising the steps of:
 - (a) providing an elastomeric layer having a first surface and a second surface opposing the first surface; wherein the elastomeric layer is in a form selected from the group consisting of a scrim, an apertures formed film, an elastomeric woven or nonwoven, discrete strands and strings; wherein the elastomeric woven or nonwoven and discrete strand and strings comprise a polystyrene thermoplastic elastomer selected from the group consisting of a styrene-butadiene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-isoprene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/butylene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/propylene-styrene thermoplastic elastomer, a styrene-ethylene/propylene thermoplastic elastomer, a hydrogenated styrene butadiene rubber, and a mixture thereof; and
 - (b) providing a first nonwoven comprising component fibers having a primary fiber direction; wherein the first nonwoven layer has a Fiber Orientation Ratio within about ± 20 degrees from a primary fiber direction of at least about 65%; and
 - (c) joining the first nonwoven layer to the first surface of the elastomeric layer; wherein the elastic laminate exhibits elasticity without subsequent mechanical stretching.